

Congressional Progressive Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Co-Chair, Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Co-Chair Hensarling and Co-Chair Murray:

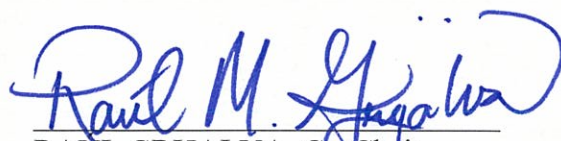
As the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction begins its work, we urge the Committee to embrace a job creation strategy as the surest way to reduce the deficit and create a sustainable economy. Pursuant to Section 401(b)(5)(F) of the Budget Control Act of 2011, we call on the Joint Select Committee to hold public hearings on the essential role that a true job creation strategy plays in fueling economic growth and deficit reduction.

Americans need good jobs now. The passage of the Budget Control Act produced troubling fluctuations in the stock market. Many experts say this upheaval stems from concerns about reduced growth and increased unemployment on account of spending cuts included in that law. These fluctuations have made August a particularly difficult month for the American people. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 14 million Americans continue to look for work, and the Economic Policy Institute estimates the Budget Control Act will cut another 1.8 million jobs from our economy over the next year.

Despite this, the Joint Select Committee has not indicated any intention of examining how increased employment would reduce the deficit or benefit the overall economy. The American people cannot afford to wait any longer for Congress to act on what should be our number one priority: creating jobs. Holding public hearings on this issue would be a good, solid step toward addressing this national emergency immediately.

Sincerely,


KEITH ELLISON, Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus


RAUL GRIJALVA, Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus